AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the current abstract with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT

A separation tray, suitable for mounting in a vertical column, for separating liquid/gas mixtures. The separation tray has horizontal upper and lower walls and a plurality of primary separation devices for separating a fluid into a primary gas and a liquid-enriched secondary gas. The invention is characterized by a secondary separation zone located in the inner free space between the upper and lower walls and the primary separation devices. Liquid-enriched secondary gas is removed through outlets in the primary separation devices and guided downwardly by return skirts into the inner free space, whereupon the entrained liquid in the liquid-enriched secondary gas is substantially removed from the secondary gas.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 12 of the specification with the following paragraph:

Most of the liquid will leave the swirl tube conduit 28a at the lower end of the slits 40a, and the concentration of gas in the liquid-enriched fluid leaving the conduit further downstream through the upper end of the slits and through the annular opening 48a [[a]] will be higher. At high flow velocities it can happen that liquid being expelled through the lower end of the slits 40a and impinging on the inner wall of the return skirt 45a will to some degree be re-entrained in the secondary gas streaming downward in the annular region 50a. It has been found, however, that under practical operating conditions the increased efficiency of separation in the free inner space overcompensates this effect so that the net effect is positive and sufficiently dry secondary gas is produced.